

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE:	AUTHORITY		
DATE:	2 OCTOBER 2014	REPORT NO:	CFO/099/14
PRESENTING OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	PHIL GARRIGAN	REPORT AUTHOR:	SIMON RYAN
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
TITLE OF REPORT:	OPERATION SABRE – AID TO ROMANIA 2014		

APPENDICES:

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the Fire Aid provided by the Authority to Romania via Operation Sabre and to provide the background to the presentation which will be delivered in support of this report.

Recommendation

2. That Members; note the Authority's contribution to Operation Sabre through the provision of a Fire Appliance to Romania.

Introduction and Background

3. Members may be aware that MFRA is one of 7 European organisations participating in a European wide initiative to preserve Heritage buildings and their contents from damage, especially by fire and water. The programme is known as HERITPROT.
4. One of the parties involved is Mures County in Transylvania, Romania which covers an area of some 2,600 sq. miles and has a population of over ½ million people. Economically deprived, it's mainly volunteer fire and rescue service has few resources and one of its appliances was until 2014 still horse drawn
5. Following initial contact as part of the HERITPROT in a joint initiative Shropshire and Wrekin F&RS and MFRA both agreed to provide a fire appliance which was surplus to requirements to be donated for use in Mures County whose area includes a UNESCO World heritage site at Sighisoara.
6. Three MFRA Firefighters volunteered their time to drive the MFRA appliance out to Romania, spend time training the local volunteers in its use and also carry out community work in an older person's home and in an orphanage. An identical programme was run at the same time by Shropshire
7. The team recently returned to the UK after a highly successful trip, and the 3 MFRA Firefighters Shaun Turner, Denise McKinney and Brian Grimley will deliver a

presentation of their experiences and the hugely beneficial community outcomes during a working lunch before the Authority meeting.

8. Members of Shropshire's team will also be present and all are available to answer any questions which Members may have.

Equality and Diversity Implications

9. There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report.

Staff Implications

10. Time and Resource Management were able to release the Firefighters from duty without affecting appliance availability.

Legal Implications

11. MFRA Legal Department provided all appropriate documentation, legal and insurance advice in preparation for and during the trip.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

12. The vehicle was at its end of life and would have generated some limited financial income for the Authority if sold or scrapped as per the Authority's asset refresh programme. However it was felt that this income potential was offset by the benefits that donating the appliance to Romania would have in protecting the people and heritage of Romania. Travel costs and any additional funding was met from existing budgets.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

13. A series of Risk Assessments were carried out before and during the trip.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

14. Providing equipment and associated training which aids some of the poorest and most socially deprived communities within the EU enhances the already excellent reputation of MFRA

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
